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Deadline looms for city's voters

Options available for those who fail to register in time

Andrea Zimmermann
DAILY EGYPTIAN

People wishing to vote in the city's Feb. 27 primary elections must register by Tuesday.

Jackson County Clerk Larry Reinhardt said address changes are the biggest problem for students. If students registered to vote while living in the residence halls but now live off-campus, they must re-register, he said.

"That is the biggest problem we have with students and that causes a lot of heartache for them and for us trying to deal with that," Reinhardt said.

The primary election will narrow the mayoral race from four to two and the city council field by one. Those who do not register to vote in time for the Feb. 27 election will still be able to do so for the April 17 runoff.

On Tuesday, City Council hopeful Joe Moore staked out his potential voters outside Faner Hall to make sure they were registered for the elections.

Campaign volunteer Shane Turnage, a graduate student in political science, called out to passersby hoping to attract them to sign up.

"Choose your mayor, choose your city councilmen!" he said. "Let's get the students speaking, man!"

Within a few hours, Turnage stuffed a large stack of about 200 registrations into a manila envelope.

Moore, who is the only student running for City Council, told the stopped students his plans and why he wants to be the first student ever to win a seat.

After the 2003 city elections, it was speculated that student voters were a major factor in pushing winner mayoral candidate Brad Cole into office over former Councilwoman Maggie Flanagan. Cole won by just 21 votes.

People who register with outlets such as Moore's and not with an official deputy registrar must be prepared to show a picture ID at the polls, Reinhardt said. Traditional voter registration requires proof of

See VOTING, Page 10



Chris Wright, a Hollister Co. employee, drinks a glass of milk after taking the Buffalo Wild Wings Blazin' Challenge Wednesday afternoon. The competition was part of Hollister's 'Help Raise a Buck for Duck' event to help raise money for Jeff Duck, a Hollister Co. employee battling cancer.

JAKE LOCKARD
DAILY EGYPTIAN



JAKE LOCKARD ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Heather Dial, a Hollister Co. employee, takes the Buffalo Wild Wings Blazin' Challenge with a group of Hollister Co. employees and friends.

"I'm hoping it's going to be like after a long run where all your endorphins are rushing through your body and you're elated that you're done."

— Jonathon Travelstead
volunteer at the American Cancer Society

Red-hot competition

Buffalo Wild Wings hosts charity challenge

Joe Crawford
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Joe Gusby stood on a table Wednesday afternoon at Buffalo Wild Wings and shouted words of warning to the rest of his party. "You're going to be close to death!" Gusby shouted.

Gusby, a 25-year-old from Cape Girardeau, was one of 17 participants in the Hollister Co.'s "Raise a Buck for Duck Blazin' Challenge" at the restaurant on East Main Street.

The challenge was to eat 12 of Buffalo Wild Wings' hottest wings as quickly as possible.

No drink. No napkin. No more than six minutes.

Christopher Howell, manager of the Hollister store in Carbondale that organized the challenge, said the charity event raised money for Jeff Duck, a senior regional manager of Hollister who has cancer.

Howell said local businesses and individuals donated money and Buffalo Wild Wings donated wings. He said the event raised more than \$2,000.

Jonathan Travelstead, a volunteer at the American Cancer Society, said he took the challenge despite a strong distaste for spicy food.

"I don't know what I'm thinking," Travelstead said minutes taking his

See COMPETITION, Page 7

Dunn reviewing proposal for marketing change

Sean McGahan
DAILY EGYPTIAN

A proposal to restructure SIUC's primary marketing tool was submitted to interim Chancellor John Dunn Wednesday in an attempt to counter declining enrollment and revamp a department criticized for its apparent lack of priorities.

The 10-page proposal focuses on campus collaboration, student involvement and improving customer service within Media and Communication Resources, said Mike Ruiz,

communications director for the Office of the President.

The proposal comes after a November report by the higher education marketing firm SimpsonScarborough called for the department's reorganization, saying the office is not an effective marketing operation.

The report also recommended officials re-examine Southern at 150, the plan to become a top 75 research institution by 2019.

"SIUC is considered one of the strongest research institutions in Illinois, however, it does not have the resources to achieve and maintain a

top 75 ranking," the report stated.

It also suggested that the university make appointing an enrollment manager and director of admissions its highest priority. The latter post has been unfilled for nearly a year while the newly formed assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management position is occupied by Diversity Coordinator Carmen Suarez on an interim basis.

Ruiz, who designed the proposal, said he used the SimpsonScarborough report as a framework but also infused a variety of different ideas.

He said he intended the proposal to provide a

long-term foundation for the office.

"It doesn't mean if you do all of these things enrollment is never going to go down again, no, but I do think what it will prevent is some of the major foundational problems we have seen lately," he said.

Dunn said he received the proposal Wednesday, but had not looked it over yet.

He said he expects the final version of the proposal to become public within the next two weeks.

See MARKETING, Page 7

New facility aids busy, growing heart program

Danny Wenger
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale will soon have a new \$7 million facility. In April, construction will finish on a new office building for Prairie Heart Institute cardiologists. Prairie Heart Institute is based out of Springfield, and has more than 42 doctors and 20 clinic sites statewide. The building will house doctors who are currently in Carbondale, and have offices for new doctors.

George Maroney has been the hospital administrator for 31 years and has watched the cardiology program expand.

“We are the busiest heart program, probably south of Springfield,” Maroney said. “Not only are we the busiest and the largest, but we’re one that is still growing.”

According Southern Illinois Healthcare, the company that manages Memorial Hospital, local cardiologists perform more than 3,500 procedures a year, not including open-heart surgeries.

“That gives you a good ball park idea of how many people are coming to the hospital for heart care,” said Grant Walker, a communications coordinator at SIH.

The growth of the heart care program has triggered growth in the hospital.

“As their numbers are growing, the hospital is growing along with it, and that basically caused us and [Prairie Heart] to partner and build them a building,” Maroney said.

The two-story building has been under construction since April 2006. When it is finished it will have more than 20,000 square feet with offices for nine physicians and multiple exam rooms.

Greg Timmers, the chief executive officer for the physician group at Prairie Heart Institute, said the building would provide needed space.

“The big advantage to it is the fact that

“As their numbers are growing, the hospital is growing along with it, and that basically caused us and [Prairie Heart] to partner and build them a building.

— George Maroney
administrator of Prairie Heart Institute

we’ve really not been able to accommodate the number of patients,” Timmers said. “This will give us much more space.”

With the additional space staff may be added, meaning more service for the community, and the building’s proximity to the hospital is another advantage.

“The key thing, why we chose that location ... we try to always be on campus with the hospital,” Timmers said. “That way if there’s an emergency we’re already right there on the campus, so it’s a lot easier for us to respond.”

Carbondale’s central location in southern Illinois is beneficial for Prairie Heart cardiologists because they frequently visit outlying communities

“Part of Prairie’s philosophy has always been to actually travel to the locations closer to where the patients live,” Timmers said. “What they do is they’ll actually spend part of their day out in different community hospitals.”

As doctors come to Carbondale the amount of patients will increase, and the hospital will continue to expand.

“It’s a growing program,” Maroney said. “And as more patients are coming to Carbondale for their medical care, and those patients that see our physicians end up being treated at the hospital.”

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JOSEPH MIDKIFF ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN


Bill Yeager wires a light box in the west stairwell of the newly constructed addition of the Memorial Hospital of Carbondale on Tuesday.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS
FROM THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER:**

The deadline to apply for a Student Medical Benefit Extended Care Fee Refund is Friday, January 26, 2007.

To apply for a refund, a student must present his/her insurance policy booklet or the schedule of benefits along with the insurance wallet I.D. card to Student Health Center, Student Medical Benefit (Insurance) office, 374 E. Grand Ave. All students, including those who have applied for a Cancellation Waiver and whose fees are not yet paid, must apply for the refund before the deadline. Students 17 and under need a parent’s signature.

Download the refund form at our website:
www.siu.edu/~shc



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Southern Illinois University Carbondale


**Welcomes U.S. Congressman
Jerry Costello and FAA Administrator
Marion C. Blakey
to the Southern Illinois Airport**

TODAY


Congressman Costello and Ms. Blakey will tour SIUC’s aviation facilities before meeting with the public in the Hangar Building at 3:50 p.m. to discuss SIUC’s aviation programs and the planned Transportation Education Center.

**A public reception will follow.
The event is free and open to the public.**

3:50 p.m. | January 25th | Hangar Building at the Southern Illinois Airport



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Marion C. Blakey

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WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

Former Mississippi lawman charged in 1964 slayings of black teens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Mississippi sheriff's deputy was arrested Wednesday in the 1964 slayings of two black teenagers who were long believed to have been kidnapped and killed by the Ku Klux Klan.

The former deputy, James Ford Seale, of Roxie, Miss., was named in a federal indictment charging him in connection with the teens' disappearance and deaths while they were hitchhiking in a rural area of the state east of Natchez.

Until recently, Seale was thought to be dead, and the investigation into the two deaths had long been abandoned.

Seale was taken into custody by U.S. marshals Wednesday afternoon and was taken to Jackson, Miss. He is expected to be arraigned Thursday on kidnapping charges stemming from the May 1964 disappearances of Henry Dee and Charles Moore.

U.S. forces launch airstrike in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States launched an airstrike in Somalia against suspected terrorist targets — the second such attack this month, defense officials said Wednesday.

One official suggested that early indications showed that no high-value target was killed or captured.

At the Defense Department, spokesman Bryan Whitman declined to confirm any new strike but said in general that the United States is "going to go after al-Qaida in the global war on terrorism wherever it takes us."

The U.S. Navy also has had forces in waters off the Somali coast, where they have monitored maritime traffic, boarded suspicious ships and interrogated crews in an attempt to catch anyone escaping the Somalia military operations.

ISRAEL

Israeli president asked to step down over rape charge

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli President Moshe Katsav, facing charges of rape and abuse of power, asked parliament Wednesday to temporarily remove him from office in an effort to blunt growing calls for his resignation.

Katsav has been under intense pressure to quit since Attorney-General Meni Mazuz notified him Tuesday that he planned to indict him on a raft of charges after a monthslong investigation into allegations by four women who worked for him.

The president, who has not commented publicly on the impending charges, stopped short of resigning, which would deprive him of the immunity he enjoys while in office.

Instead, he asked parliament's House Committee to grant his request for a leave of absence that could last up to three months, according to parliamentary spokesman Giora Pordes.

PHOENIX

Sex offender posed as 12-year-old student for months

PHOENIX (AP) — A convicted sex offender attended at least two Arizona middle schools, sat through seventh-grade courses and turned in homework as he moved around the state pretending to be 12 years old, officials say.

Authorities in Yavapai County have accused Neil Havens Rodreick II, who is really 29, of assaulting a girl.

The sheriff's office there said Rodreick conned two men he was living with and having sex with into believing he was a young boy. One of them, 61-year-old Lonnie Stiffler, called himself Rodreick's grandfather when he tried to enroll him at Mingus Springs as "Casey Price."

Officials at another school said they were reviewing their admissions policies to figure out how they could have let an adult sex offender mix with students for so long.

Senators reject Bush's Iraq plans

David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In a calculated snub of President Bush, the Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee dismissed plans for a troop buildup in Iraq on Wednesday as "not in the national interest" of the United States.

"The president has made his decision," Vice President Dick Cheney fired back, a response that made it clear the administration would go ahead anyway. "We need to get the job done."

The committee vote, 12-9 along party lines, capped hours of debate in which Republicans and Democrats vented their frustration and anger both with the administration and their own past unwillingness to change the course of a war that has claimed the lives of more than 3,000 U.S. troops.

"There is no strategy. This is a pingpong game with American lives," said Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

Hagel was the only one of 10 committee Republicans to support the nonbinding measure. Several of the panel's 11 Democrats said they favored stronger legislation to register their opposition to the war.

In the wake of midterm election losses, Bush announced two weeks ago that he would order an additional 21,500 troops into the war zone. In Tuesday night's State of the Union address, he implored skeptical lawmakers to



U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), left, talks with Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) before President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in the House of Representatives Chamber on Tuesday.
CHUCK KENNEDY
McCLATCHY TRIBUNE

give the strategy a chance.

Bush got his answer in less than 24 hours, the timing dictated by Democrats, and Sen. Joseph Biden. D-Del., the panel's chairman, said tougher measures were likely to follow.

"Unless the president demonstrates very quickly that he is unlikely to continue down the road he's on, this will be only the first step. ... I will be introducing ... constitutionally legitimate, binding pieces of legislation. We will bring them up," he said.

Taken together, the committee's vote and Cheney's response

suggested the Democrats and the White House were on a collision course lawmakers drafting ever-stronger measures to change policy in Iraq, and the president exercising his prerogatives as commander in chief and his veto pen.

Democrats intend to bring the measure to the Senate floor for a vote next week, and Biden said he is willing, in the interim, to make changes in the hopes of gaining additional Republican support.

Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the committee's senior Republican, readily conceded he was not sure Bush's new policy would suc-

ceed. But he voted against the measure, saying, "It is unclear to me how passing a nonbinding resolution that the president has already said he will ignore will contribute to any improvement or modification of our Iraq policy."

Lugar also said sponsors of the measure were underestimating their power to force a change.

"We have the ability to require weekly updates from our diplomats and military commanders about the status in Iraq. We should be engaging the administration on almost a daily basis concerning the mission and needs of our troops," he said.

Minimum wage bill faces tax break additions

Jim Kuhnhenh
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Democrats' promise of a quick increase in the minimum wage ran aground Wednesday in the Senate, where lawmakers are insisting it include new tax breaks for restaurants and other businesses that rely on low-pay workers.

On a 54-43 vote, Democrats lost an effort to advance a House-passed bill that would lift the pay floor from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour without any accompanying tax cut. Opponents of the tax cut needed 60 votes to prevail.

The vote sent a message to House Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the new Democratic Congress' top priorities. The wage floor has been unchanged for 10 years. The bill would increase it to \$7.25 in three steps over 26 months.

"Why can't we do just one thing for minimum wage workers, no strings attached, no giveaways for the powerful?" asked Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a leading sponsor of the bill.

The House passed the increase two weeks ago. Since then Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. Charles Rangel, the chairman of the tax writing Ways and Means Committee, have prodded the Senate to keep tax proposals out of the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., scheduled Wednesday's

vote to demonstrate the Democrats' lack of Republican support for a straight minimum wage bill without tax cuts. Every Democrat present voted to end debate and five moderate Republicans joined them.

"There seems to be agreement to raise the minimum wage," said Republican Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming. "The difficulty has been how do we take care of some of the impact to small businesses that will result from this."

Reid is backing an \$8.3 billion tax package that would extend for five years a tax credit for employers who hire low-income or disadvantaged workers. It also extends until 2010 tax rules that permit businesses to combine as much as \$112,000 in expenses into one annual tax deduction.

The cost of the proposal would be paid with revenue realized from a proposed cap of \$1 million on executive compensation that can be tax deferred. The tax package also would end deductions for court settlements or punitive damages paid by companies that have been sued.

A vote on the full tax and wages package is not expected until early next week.

The differences between the House and Senate bills will require Pelosi and Reid to work out an agreement on how to move a similar tax package through the House.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the chairman of the Senate's tax writing Finance Committee and co-author of the tax proposals, said the Senate bill will be held in the Senate until the leaders resolve the impasse.

"It's just a couple or three steps away from the goal line," Baucus said.

Helicopter crash leads to 5 American deaths in central Baghdad

Qassim Abdul-Zahra
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Four of the five Americans killed when a U.S. security company's helicopter crashed in a dangerous Sunni neighborhood in central Baghdad were shot execution style in the back the head, Iraqi and U.S. officials said Wednesday.

A senior Iraqi military official said a machine gunner downed the helicopter, but a U.S. military official in Washington said there were no indications that the aircraft, owned by Blackwater USA, had been shot out of the sky.

In Washington, a U.S. defense official said four of the five killed were shot in the back of the head but did not know whether they were still alive when they were shot.

The U.S. official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

The Iraqi official, who also declined to be identified because details had not been made public, said the four were shot in the back of the head while they were on the ground.

Blackwater USA confirmed that five Americans employed by the North

Carolina-based company as security professionals were killed, but provided no identities or any details.

On Wednesday, U.S. ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad offered condolences for the five Americans killed.

"We had a very bad day yesterday," Khalilzad told reporters during a roundtable discussion at the embassy in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad.

"We lost five fine men."

The Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television said the 1920 Revolution Brigades insurgent group claimed responsibility for shooting down the helicopter and showed a video taken by a cell phone of a mass of still-smoldering twisted metal that it was said was the wreckage of the chopper.

Another Sunni insurgent group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, also claimed responsibility and posted identity cards of men who were on the helicopter on a Web site, including at least two that bore the name of Arthur Laguna, who was later identified by his mother as among those killed.

The helicopter was believed to have been escorting a VIP ground convoy as it headed away from the heavily fortified Green Zone.

Blackwater USA provides security for State Department officials in Iraq, trains military units from around the world, and works for corporate clients.

“We had a very bad day yesterday. We lost five fine men.”

— Zalmay Khalilzad
U.S. ambassador to Iraq

Forensic science minor in the works

Sarah Lohman
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Students intrigued by the popular television series “CSI” and its spin-offs could soon get a piece of the action.

SIUC is poised to offer a minor in forensic science, and one professor says it’s all thanks to Hollywood.

Luke Tolley, an assistant professor of chemistry, teaches the new introduction to forensic science class, which instructs students how to process a crime scene and work with evidence.

The popularity of “CSI” and the importance of DNA evidence in highly publicized trials such as the O.J. Simpson case helped launch young people’s interest in the field, Tolley said.

“It’s fortunate because it’s a rapidly growing area,” he said.

Lori Vermeulen, chairwoman of the chemistry and biochemistry department, said the new forensic science minor is a collaborative effort among the chemistry, anthropology and administration of justice departments.

The 15-hour minor, open to students of all majors, could be available for students to declare in fall 2007, said Susan Ford, chairwoman of the anthropology department.

She said students should be able to take the classes now and have them count towards the minor retroactively.

The pending minor has three required classes — introduction to criminal justice, forensic anthropology and introduction to foren-

sic science.

Six hours of electives are also required, ranging from dental anthropology to toxicology.

Tolley said forensics is also a fairly broad area, and students may be unsure what job opportunities are available and what to study to get into those jobs.

“It helps people to understand which area of forensics they may want to go into,” Tolley said.

Ford said the program is unique to Illinois.

“The only other minor in forensic science is currently at Western Illinois and it’s really a minor in chemistry,” she said.

“It’s not a broad-based minor like this one.”

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Obama challenges allegation he attended radical Islamic school

Nedra Pickler
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barack Obama fought back Wednesday against an allegation that he was educated at a radical Islamic school as a child in Indonesia, determined to avoid being tripped up by unsubstantiated charges like those that undermined John Kerry in 2004.

Interviews by The Associated Press at the elementary school in Jakarta found that it’s a public and secular institution that has been open to students of all faiths since before the White House hopeful attended in the late 1960s.

Obama, who was born in Hawaii, moved to Indonesia at age 6 to live with his mother and stepfather, attending schools in the country until age 10, when he returned to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents.

“The allegations are completely baseless,” said Akmad Solichin, the

vice principal at SDN Menteng 1, who added, “Yes, most of our students are Muslim, but there are Christians as well. Everyone’s welcome here ... it’s a public school.”

A spokesman for Indonesia’s Ministry of Religious Affairs said claims that Obama studied at an Islamic school are groundless.

“SDN Menteng 1 is a public primary school that is open to people of all faiths,” said the spokesman, Sutopo, who goes by only one name. “Moreover, he studied earlier at Fransiskus Assisi, which is clearly a Catholic school.”

The contention that Obama was educated at a radical Muslim madrassa surfaced on the Web site of the conservative Insight magazine the day after Obama announced he was jumping into the 2008 presidential race. Conservative Internet blogs and the Fox News Channel picked up the story and spread the charges just as his candidacy was getting off the ground.

Obama on Wednesday called the

reports “scurrilous,” and his communications director e-mailed reporters a lengthy memo attempting to set the record straight.

“I think they recognize that the notion that me going to school in Indonesia for two years at a public school there at the age of 7 and 8 is probably not going to be endangering in some way the people of America,” Obama said on NBC’s “Today” show.

The push-back was a signal Obama would fight to protect his reputation in the presidential campaign.

Many Democrats argued that Kerry’s failure to challenge aggressively his critics in the 2004 presidential race cost him in his effort to unseat President Bush. A group with conservative ties, the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, charged that Kerry did not deserve the medals he won in the Vietnam War — despite his combat record of bravery and valor. Kerry announced Wednesday that he will not run again in 2008.



JOESPH MIDKIFF ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Fernadto Bonilla rests in front of Old Town Liquors on Illinois Avenue on Monday. Fernadto is homeless and was keeping dry during the evening’s wet conditions.



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Hobbies: Reading, watching TV, hanging out with my friends, and just relaxing
Why I donate plasma: "I like to save lives, especially burn victims. Plus, the cash is a bonus, and it fills up my gas tank."

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Energy to burn

Photo column by
Joseph Midkiff ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

A collective wave of “burning energy” can overcome the masses at lightening speed. The spread of heightened pulse rates and the mutual understanding of the person at your side is an invigorating experience. Fanatics of the Bears indulged themselves to the high of a rioting frenzy on Illinois Avenue last Sunday. True, blood was not shed and metal was not bent, but the elements were there for a celebratory throw down. The patrons of the frenzy collected fast and quick and were not easily deterred by authorities. Yes, the excitable mob relocated to a place more accepted by the police, but they did not lessen their audible celebration. This

forced the spectators to interact with the show. It added kindling to the fire — a fire that I thoroughly enjoyed as it burned. There needs to be a sense of either fearlessness or utter inebriation to be apart of such an event. Both states of mind can be tragic due to the reluctant capacity for reasoning. But, if raucous fanatical behavior can be performed without idiotic destruction, then more power to you. I was impressed with the spirit of the night and hungered for that moment’s slice of life. I included myself in the deluge of crazy to understand the addiction. As a photojournalist I want to live the moment. First hand experiences allow for fulfillment in life.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIU pride

DEAR EDITOR:

Your editorial of Jan. 22, which served as a premise for your observation that nothing good happened in the university over the past year, might just be a reflection of your narrow focus of what makes good news and what is too mundane to think about (even if there are four of you straining your brain cells).

As a matter of fact, I don't even need help in listing some happenings that I should think the editor of the school paper might find appropriate items for a Gus Bode smile. Here are some that come quickly to mind.

A significant number of students completed the doctorate and will go back into the educational world and do good things for humanity because of SIU.

A significant number of students completed the master's degree and will be better teachers, researchers and citizens as a result of their work at SIU.

Hundreds of students, some the first in their families, completed the undergraduate degree and will join the workplace with a good deal of pride and better prepared to contribute because of their

work at SIU.

A significant number of SIU faculty grew in stature as teachers, scholars and community servants. Many were awarded promotion, tenure and in some special cases monetary awards for excellence. Many, because of their dedication and love for SIU, will be remembered by their students as the reason they will always be proud of SIU and thankful for their mentoring.

Hundreds of mothers and fathers will have a very good feeling about SIU because their sons and daughters were treated with respect and rewarded with a good solid education. Not only will they see this in their kids' behavior, but they will hear it as their children speak with appreciation for the years they spent at SIU.

It was a great year for much of what is the core of university life. The SIU Symphony has become a pleasing interpreter of great music. McLeod Theater demonstrated that life can be captured on stage and that long tradition was celebrated this past year in a glorious fashion. The Public Affairs Institute gave our university community an opportunity to listen to the voices of the men and women who have made the decisions that have guided our lives.

And of course, it was a glorious year for football and basketball. I'm sure Coaches Kill and Lowery

would be willing to help you out in your memory game in the future.

And last but not least, we would be short sighted if we failed to include in our list the introduction of Saluki Way to the community. Like the Student Medical Center, the Student Recreation Center and the Student Center, the person paying for the change does not always enjoy the process, but when completed one would have looked foolish to have opposed them. Former Chancellor Wendler not only because the “voice of SIU” by spending hours in nearly every school in southern Illinois, but he also continued to remind us that we must plan for the future and if we do we will continue to have a university of which we can be justly proud.

Over the 45 years that I have spent in this area as I worked at SIU, I noticed a couple things about the DE. First, some excellent young people have learned enough about journalism to go out there and become first-rate reporters on papers or on radio/television. Second, those that did learned early in their DE days that for every mistake we make, at SIU, for every error in judgment, for every failure, there are hundreds of successes. You just have to open both eyes and look for them.

Marvin Kleinau
Emeritus faculty

Dogs and cats

DEAR EDITOR:

Congratulations, Salukis, on a hard-fought win over the UNI Panthers. Also, thank you for yet another exciting game. As a UNI graduate, I always look forward to the next battle between the cats and dogs, because I know it's going to be worth the price of admission. There's no team I'd rather have my Panthers beat than SIU. And, please, take that as a compliment. Rivalries are what make college sports rock. And, the UNI-SIU rivalry is easily my favorite. We may very well see you again in March. So, good luck (until then), and I hope to see both of us in the Big Dance.

Daniel Bender
UNI alumni

MISSION STATEMENT

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

WORDS OVERHEARD

“With arson dogs and bomb dogs you’re not in a situation where you can play.”

Jay Crippen
arson investigator,
explaining chemical training for dogs

COMPETITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

first bites. He said he hoped his participation would make a statement about the importance of cancer awareness.

"I'm hoping it's going to be like after a long run where all your endorphins are rushing through your body and you're elated that you're done," Travelstead said. "You're happy that you did it even though it will be six minutes of terror."

Howell and Michael Lewallen, an assistant manager at Hollister, came up with the idea for the fundraiser after trying the Blazin' Challenge, which is offered to Buffalo Wild Wings customers

seven days a week. Those who complete the challenge earn a T-shirt and get their picture put up on the restaurant's walls.

"We got to the topic of 'Hey, I bet I can do it faster than you can,'" Lewallen said. "It was a friendly bet."

This time, Howell won the bet. He finished his fiery meal in two and a half minutes, defeating the 16 other participants.

Paul Badgett, a senior from Mt. Vernon studying management, bowed out of the competition before finishing all of his blazing wings.

"I'm in so much pain right now," Badgett said, holding a glass of milk in one hand and a glass of water in the other.

Gusby went beyond the requirements of the competition, attempting to finish 24 wings instead 12.

"I got 16, but I don't know if it was worth it or not," Gusby said. "I'm still hurting right now."

Howell said Hollister partnered with Buffalo Wild Wings previously to raise money for Duck in December.

He said last time Duck donated the money to the Pediatric Cancer Foundation and he may choose to do so again.

"This is to show what the Carbondale area can do with some support," Howell said.

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536-3311 ext. 259

MARKETING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dunn said student involvement — one of the cornerstones of the proposal — is an important part of the recruitment issue.

"We know that some of the best methods that we can use to recruit other students to the university has to do with the voice of students currently here," he said.

He also said the SimpsonScarborough report validated some existing concerns among university officials.

The report said Media and Communication Resources lacked clear campus priorities and was viewed by university employees as

controlling and "the mouthpiece" of former Chancellor Walter Wendler, who was demoted in November.

SimpsonScarborough analyzed the department while it was under the leadership of former Executive Director Sue Davis, who stepped down in December to analyze how the university can market through popular social Web sites such as MySpace.

Davis also acted as SIUC's spokeswoman. Dunn recently announced that Rod Sievers, formerly an associate director of Media and Communication Resources, now holds the position.

sean_mcgahan@dailyegyptian.com
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PROPERTY FOR SALE, 1.1 acre off of Giant City Blacktop, Giant City School Dist, call 618-521-3717 or 457-1959.

Furniture



PILLOW TOP QUEEN MATTRESS SET. Still in plastic. Cost \$900 sell \$195, Marion 217-390-4809

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\$100 EACH WASHER, dryer, refrigerator, stove, 90 day warranty. Able Appliances 457-7767.

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3 BDRM HOUSE pets ok M/boro w/d hookup lg yard \$540/mo 203-1208

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ences, \$475/mo, call Nancy at
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3 mi S of C'dale, 618-201-1777, ask
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VERY NICE 1 BDRM, 1 bath
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C'DALE 3 BDRM TOWNHOUSE, 1
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6 bdrm-313, 610, 701 W Cherry,
106 S. Forest, 319 W Walnut
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..... C'dale 549-3850.....

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Pizza, 218 W. Freeman.

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LETS HOPE SO

HIYA!

NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING ROOMIE? YOU DON'T HAVE HANDS

I'M GLAD I GOT A SINGLE ROOM

The Duplex

by Glenn McCoy

I'LL HAVE THE TRIPLE-BACON CHEESY HALF-POUNDER.

OKIE-DOKIE

Does ANYTHING COME WITH THAT?

A REFERRAL TO A HEART SPECIALIST.

Girls and Sports

by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

SO YOU WENT ON A DATE WITH AN NFL OWNER'S DAUGHTER, AND SHE FAXED YOU THIS OFFER?

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S SILLY. I SHOULD JUST CALL HER AND...

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529-4404

By Linda Black

Today's Birthday (01-25-07).

Allow yourself a few adventures early in the year, but be careful. You'll be staying closer to home after April. Don't have it be with a broken leg. Better you should be working on your garden. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - You'll soon be in a better position to make lots of money. Be thinking about what you'll do when you get there, so you can do it quickly.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - You've made a tough job look almost easy. Don't push that impression too far. Don't take on another impossible task quite yet. Get back to them later on that.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - Soon, you'll be into the doing part of the plan you're devising. Know that new difficulties will arise. Proceed with confidence, and caution.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - Do the best you can with what you have. You'll be well rewarded. You'll gain not only wealth, but also a lot of respect.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - You're taking on new responsibilities, and there will be conflicts. Be patient with a person who used to give you orders.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Make the decision and cinch the deal early. If you can't it's better to wait. Regular chores take precedence later and tomorrow.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Listen and learn from a person who's more willing to take a risk. You won't have to do that at all. Follow when the danger's over.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - Make sure new systems are running properly, and then hold back. Be watching for problems to develop, and bugs to be worked out.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - There are a couple of chores you shouldn't ignore any longer. You know what they are, though. You may not know how to do them. More study is required.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - You've been thinking of ways to protect what you've acquired, and that's good. Now, relax with people who love you, in a beautiful place. Don't buy or sell anything.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Devote as much time as you can to your latest investigation. After you collect all the data, you get to build upon it. That's the fun part.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - You're going into another learning phase. Perhaps it's because of a new thing you've bought. You need to learn how to use it properly. Be careful not to break it.

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Sudoku

By Michael Mephram

					9	4	7	2
								1
			8	1	7			9
	6			9	2			3
		5				8		
	3			4	7		1	
9				6	2	1		
5								
3	1	2	4					

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Monday's puzzle

8	6	4	9	5	3	1	7	2
7	9	2	1	6	8	5	3	4
3	1	5	2	7	4	8	9	6
9	8	6	3	4	5	2	1	7
1	5	7	6	9	2	3	4	8
4	2	3	7	8	1	9	6	5
6	3	9	5	2	7	4	8	1
5	4	1	8	3	6	7	2	9
2	7	8	4	1	9	6	5	3

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

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Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Dolphins or Marlins
- 5 Spill the beans
- 9 Wise men
- 14 Gymnast Korbut
- 15 Baltic capital
- 16 Son of Cain
- 17 Nose alert
- 18 Actor Alda
- 19 Fred's pre-Ginger partner
- 20 Not severe
- 22 Part of Can.
- 24 Actor Mineo
- 25 Pipe type
- 26 Indeed
- 27 Reach 212 degrees
- 28 Memory disorder
- 31 Enticement
- 32 Bread buy
- 33 Anthracite, e.g.
- 34 King or Ross
- 35 Spoke with spasmodic repetitions
- 38 Detective's load
- 41 In a jiff
- 42 Metric measure
- 45 Comic Johnson
- 46 Setups, of a sort
- 49 Murray and West
- 50 Hither's partner?
- 51 Musical key
- 52 Cure starter?
- 53 Actor Kingsley
- 54 Patio
- 56 Kitchen appliance
- 58 Relative of etc.
- 60 Feed the kitty
- 61 In the future
- 62 Sports zebras
- 63 List element
- 64 Alphabetizes
- 65 Fill past full
- 66 Family men

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- DOWN
- 1 Computer task array
- 2 Aged
- 3 Spend time worrying
- 4 Singer Carey
- 5 Fiber source
- 6 Happy song
- 7 Turkish title
- 8 Large headline
- 9 Chair
- 10 Too
- 11 Becomes extinguished
- 12 Cream-filled pastries
- 13 Winters of Hollywood
- 21 Constructs
- 23 Once existed
- 26 Boris of Russia
- 27 Used leeches
- 29 Debt reminder letters
- 30 Welcoming rug
- 34 Drinking spree
- 35 Notices
- 36 Very long period
- 37 Gangster's gun
- 38 Tourists' totes
- 39 Plains tribe
- 40 "Gone with the Wind" composer

5	6	7	6		9	10	11	12	13	
15					16					
18					19					
			22	23			24			
		26				27				
29	30					31				
					34					
				36	37					
			41					42	43	44
46	47									
						48				
50					51					
			54	55						
	58	59					60			
62							63			
65							66			

Solutions

S	O	V	E		E	L	V	S			S	L	H	O	S
W	E		I		S	E	E				O	V	E	H	V
E	L	N	V		T	V	L	E		E	O	N	V	H	V
E	O	V	H	E		E	L	N	E	B		I	E		
L	V	T	E			N	O	A		S	E	V	W		
S	E	L	V	O	D	N	I	T	B		E	L	H	V	
E	H	V		N	O	O	S			S	E	S	V	O	
				O	E	S	E	L	J	O	L	S			
A	S	L	E	B			T	V	O	C		E	A	H	
E	H	N	T		S	H	E	W	I	E	H	Z	T	V	
T	I	O	B		V	E	A			Y	V	I	B		
T	V	S		L	M	N		L	N	E	I	N	E	T	
E	T	E	D	V		N	V	T	V		W	O	D	O	
H	O	O	N	E		V	E	I	B		V	E	T	O	
S	E	O	V	S		B	V	T	B		W	A	E	L	

- 42 Emory
- University city
- 43 Hit back
- 44 Reverses
- 46 So long
- 47 Recluses
- 48 Scared
- 53 Flower areas
- 54 Plump president
- 55 Different
- 57 Gangster's heater
- 59 Afternoon social

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOPEN

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TAILIC

WELBIA

www.jumble.com

It wasn't me

You were the only one here

NOT TELLING THE TRUTH CAN BE---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

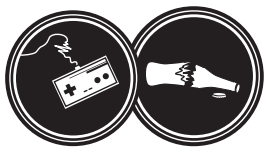
Ans: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SKUNK DRAWL WOBBLE BOTTLE

Answer: What happened to the library thief? — HE WAS "BOOKED"



'Smooth Moves' offers many laughs

Julie Engler
DAILY EGYPTIAN

WarioWare: Smooth Moves
Release date: Jan. 15, 2007
Platform: Nintendo Wii



For a game that doesn't have much of a storyline or a purpose, WarioWare: Smooth Moves sure is laugh-out-loud hilarious and fun.

In this version of WarioWare, made specifically to cater to the Wii's motion-sensor controls, players get the opportunity to jump, squat and hula-hoop their way through several series of mini-games featuring abstract cartoon characters as they learn different "forms," or ways to hold the remote for use in the games.

Each, er... we'll just call them "chapters," is kind of a story. Centered in Diamond City, there's the captain of the cheerleading squad, Mona, who is coveted by the star football player, and there's the history of the Wii-mote, which once brought happiness to all who touched it.

There's also the king of the disco, Jimmy T., who dances with cats and dogs. And while this is going on, mini games fly by, each taking an

average of five whole seconds, while forms switch and rules go out the window.

Needless to say, when you learn you have to hold the controller in front of your nose like it's an elephant trunk, the laughs start and simply don't stop.

These "forms" are what make the game. Use the "umbrella" form to shake up a bottle of champagne and spray it during a party with friends. Use the "waiter" form to balance a broom on your hand.

We won't give away a few of the best ones, but they come complete with witty, usually hilarious instructions (for the "janitor," where players hold their Wii-motes like a mop, the "right hand represents order, the left hand, filth".) This game is the funniest, most absurd game to hit the market for Wii so far.

Not as much stock was put into graphics or music as it was for game play concepts. The designers probably spent most of the time laughing, wondering what mini-game someone could play by holding the remote a certain way. It paid off, too, because

sometimes there's almost too much to do, and the games get overwhelming.

Shred a clock, lift a dumbbell, sweep the floor... and do 15 other things, each which require switching the way you hold the controller, all within a minute. And then laugh when you realize what you just did.

There are also a couple of extended games, and they are a little tricky.

One that's similar to Tetris is a balancing game. Test the shakiness of your hand by stacking blocks on a platform, using the Wii-mote as a tray. It seems easy, and it is at first, but it does get trickier when the blocks don't fall down perfectly vertical or horizontal.

Another game tests how long you can bounce a ball on a ping-pong paddle. Sure, it sounds easy, but just wait; you'll see how difficult it can be.

On an ending note, make sure of you may try to be cool and decide not to, but when you break yours on the mini-game where you have to drop your remote, don't say nobody warned you.

Needless to say, when you learn you have to hold the controller in front of your nose like it's an elephant trunk, the laughs start and simply don't stop.

393

Help Wanted

Executive Director, Student Programming Council (SPC)

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Saluki/Hardees DAWG POUND Creighton Game Tickets

Dawg Pound members **ONLY** may pick up a ticket beginning Wednesday, January 24, 8:30 a.m., at the Athletic Ticket Office. You must show your Dawg Pound membership card and student ID. Dawg Pound Members have until Saturday, January 27 at 2 p.m. to guarantee themselves a ticket. One ticket per person. For more information call 453-2000.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Today	25 Hangar 9 — Jobu PK's — Moon Buggy Kids Longbranch — Jack Harris' Long, Fast and on the edge (art exhibit) Tres Hombres — Defined Perception	Sunday	28 Key West — Ivas John Band Mugsy McGuire's — Jackson County Stage Co. presents 'Social Security'
	26 Hangar 9 — Freakbass PK's — Slappin' Henry Blue Cousin Andy's — Bryan Bowers Key West — Karaoke Pinch Penny/Copper Dragon — The Brat Pack Longbranch — Stephen Simmons Newell House — Footprints Mugsy McGuire's — Jackson County Stage Co. Presents 'Social Security' Kleinau Theater — Dr. Evette Hornsby-Minor presents 'If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again: An Ethnography of African-American Motherhood Through Narrative and Dance'		29 Hangar 9 — Open Mic Night 30 Hangar 9 — Dollar Night 31 Shryock Auditorium — 'Don Quixote' Longbranch — Open Mic Night
Friday	27 Hangar 9 — Accelerators, Dallas Alice, Hell Key West — Karaoke PK's — Slappin Henry Blue Pinch Penny/Copper Dragon — Annual Corona Polar Bear Party Longbranch — Salsa Dancing Houlihan's — Kerouline Newell House — Footprints Mugsy McGuire's — Jackson County Stage Co. Presents 'Social Security' Mugsy's McGuire's — The Dorians	Monday - Thursday	1 Key West — Candy Lane PK's — Grantharp Tres Hombres — Jobu
Saturday		Friday	2 PK's — The Natives Cousin Andy's — Curtis and Loretta (folk music) Newell House — Footprints
		Saturday	3 Hangar 9 — Spare Parts PK's — The Natives Longbranch — Salsa Dancing Houlihan's — Blues Bandits Newell House — Thomas Henshold

VOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

residency and a picture ID at the time.

Reinhardt said there are three other options — absentee, grace period and early voting— for those who miss the Jan. 30 registration deadline.

Traditional absentee voting ends Feb. 26 and voters who choose this option must provide a reason for doing so.

He said the easiest form for his office is grace period voting, which forces people to cast their ballots at the same time as registering and can only be done at the County Clerk's office in Murphysboro. This runs Jan. 31 through Feb. 13.

Unlike traditional absentee voting, early voting does not require people to provide a reason for using this method. This will run from Feb. 5 to Feb. 22 at the Murphysboro office or at the Carbondale Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 8, 15 and 22.

andrea_zimmermann@dailyegyptian.com
536-3311 ext. 274

How to register to vote for the election:

- All voters must register by Jan. 30 to vote in the city primary on Feb. 27
- Registration is held at the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave., the Department of Motor Vehicles, 2516 W. Murphysboro Road, or the County Clerk's Office in Murphysboro.
- Two forms of ID are required to register, one with a picture and a second proving residency, such as mail.

Other forms of voting:

- Grace period voting will be Jan. 31 through Feb. 13.
- This form can be used by those who miss the regular deadline, and votes must be cast the same day as registered in the County Clerk's Office
- Early voting, which does not require a reason, will run Feb. 5 through Feb. 22.
- This can be done at the County Clerk's office any time between Feb. 5 and Feb. 22, or at the Carbondale Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 8, 15, and 22.
- Absentee voting is currently under way and ends Feb. 26, but unlike early voting, people must provide a reason for submitting an absentee ballot.



Saluki Insider

The Chicago Bulls have been mentioned as a potential suitor to land Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol. Bulls players such as Ben Wallace, Ben Gordon and Luol Deng have been linked to trade talks with Memphis. More than one would likely be needed to land Gasol. Is this a wise trade for Chicago?



JIM NELSON
jim_nelson@dailyegyptian.com

"Gotta love the rumor mill. Still, I'd like to have Pau Gasol on the Bulls, and I'd part with anyone on the team except Kirk Hinrich, Luol Deng or Tyrus Thomas. And even then, I'd be skeptical if Ben Wallace were traded. I trust Paxson to only pull the trigger if the deal makes sense, though."



D.W. NORRIS
dwnorris77@hotmail.com

"Wisdom comes with experience, and if Paxson trades Deng, he'll regret it. I love the guy and think he's going to be a stud in a couple years. Gordon, even though he can score, has hit his ceiling. Wallace isn't getting any younger. Ideally, Pax will find a way to get KG."

SALUKI STAT OF THE DAY


Tony Young



In the Salukis' 56-54 win against the University of Northern Iowa Tuesday, Young recorded four steals. The game marked the first time since Nov. 26 against Virginia Tech, which SIU won 69-64. Since joining the Salukis for the 2003-04 season, SIU is undefeated in games that Young records three or more steals.

Do you have questions for the Saluki Banter that you want answered?
E-mail de_editor@dailyegyptian.com

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TONY YOUNG
tony_young@dailyegyptian.com



Riley in record books

Jim Nelson
DAILY EGYPTIAN

Her coach describes her as "one of the best students of the sport."

SIU thrower Brittany Riley calls herself "her own worst critic."

Both qualities played a role in Riley recording the year's longest indoor weight throw, 77-feet, 5 1/2 inches, and third longest in U.S. history at last week's Saluki Booster indoor track meet.

The throw is a Missouri Valley Conference and SIU record, along with a personal best for Riley.

The humble Riley is not satisfied with her accomplishment.

"My main goal is to get better each day," said the junior from Flossmoor. "I want to throw 80 feet."

If Riley were to throw 80 feet, it would put her into first-place on the U.S. Female all-time best list. The current record in the indoor weight throw is 79-06, recorded by Erin Gilreath. To move into second place, Riley would need to throw better than the current second-place mark of 78-8 1/2, thrown by Amber Campbell.

Already an under 23 North American, Central American and Caribbean National champion in the outdoor hammer throw, Riley is gearing up for the possibility of a better season this year.

According to Riley's coaches, throwing in track and field requires hours of training each week. The increments of improvement in dis-

Brittany Riley



- SIU thrower
- Recorded third longest indoor weight throw in U.S. history last week

tance may seem minute to some, but the smallest denomination of a foot can lead to victory.

Riley spends four hours each week in the weight room, and another 15 training on her throwing technique with throwing coach John Smith. During practice Smith has his throwers use heavier weights to help offset the burden of the 20-pound weight used during indoor competition. The goal is to make the weight seem lighter to the thrower. Working on strength and conditioning is also one of Smith's requirements.

"Weight training is 50 percent of the equation," Smith said. "It can be your worst enemy or your greatest asset."

But getting to the level Riley is at, SIU track and field coach Connie Price-Smith said, takes more than just physical strength.

Riley said being a student of the sport helps her see where she needs to be. She said it gives her motivation to see what other throwers are doing. It takes talking to competitors and comparing her training to what they are doing.

Price-Smith doesn't think Riley has reached her limit.

"It will lead to bigger and better things," she said.

Riley, and the rest of the track team, will be in action this weekend at Indiana University participating in the Gladstein Invitational.

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536-3311 x256

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Outdoor practice works for the Salukis on two levels: they get tougher and they get a chance to keep up with southern teams.

Teams such as Stetson usually get a head start on its northern opponents simply because the weather is less severe, though rain is a concern.

And when the Salukis practice in cold weather they get used to dealing with less than ideal conditions.

Tim Dixon, SIU's new pitching coach, said he is a firm believer in testing his pitching staff mentally.

"My thought as a pitching coach with our pitchers is I want them to have adversity," Dixon said. "I want them to be able to deal with adversity because most of the time you're pitching, you're dealing with some kind of adversity."

And the adversity starts with the weather. The Salukis can answer the questions about readiness on the practice field and those 16 days will be gone before they know it.

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crossword puzzles

comics

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Pretty much every thing you need to get into trouble in class...page 9



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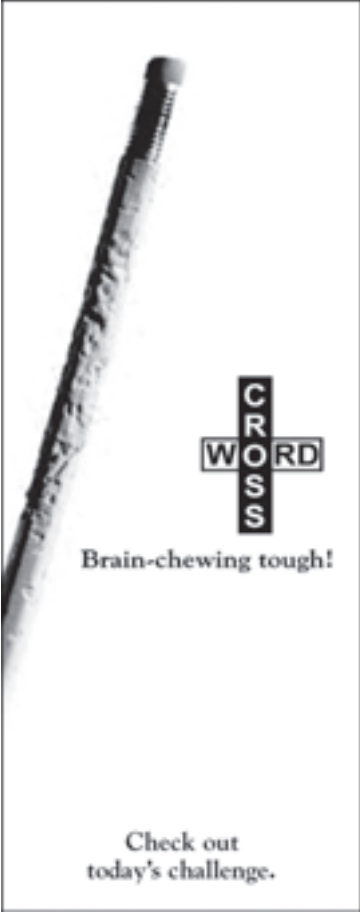
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High hopes:

Brittany Riley scores record setting weight throw but still isn't satisfied, page 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Shot swatter

Falker fourth at SIU in all-time blocks, only three away from third

Scott Mieszala
DAILY EGYPTIAN

The SIU men's basketball team only has one player with more than 10 blocks this season, but Randal Falker is more than making up for it.

After a four-block performance in the Salukis' win Tuesday over the University of Northern Iowa, Falker has 43 blocks this season and 120 in his career at SIU.

Falker, a junior forward, is fourth on SIU's all-time career blocks list and three behind Marcus Timmons, who accumulated 123 blocks in 125 games with the Salukis. The all-time leader at SIU is Joe C. Meriweather with 164 blocks.

"That's insane, just to be ranked in a category," Falker said. "Kind of crazy."

Falker has averaged two blocks per game this season, most in the Missouri Valley Conference, but he is also averaging 12.7 points per game and seven rebounds per game, fourteenth and fourth in the MVC, respectively.

The 6-foot-7 forward is also shooting 61.1 percent from the field, which would tie Mike Glenn for the fourth best field goal percentage in a single season at SIU.

"We just want him to be so dominant because we know he can," head coach Chris Lowery said. "Our biggest thing is we knew he had tremendous feel, and sometimes you have a great feel; that doesn't always mean points, and he seems to find ways to get buckets."

Falker, however, said he wouldn't rank himself as one of

the best players to don the Saluki uniform.

"I don't think I did enough to be ranked that high," he said. "Put myself as a good player right now."

"I have potential, not to say that I don't. I have a lot of potential, it's just I got to keep building every day."

Falker has been steadily improving his numbers since the 2004-05 season after redshirting the year before. He led the Salukis in blocks in his freshman and sophomore campaigns and is leading the team again this season.

His 12.7 ppg is up from last season, when he scored 9.1 ppg.

"He's going to continue to progress and that's what you hope to get," Lowery said.

However, Falker's effect on the court isn't confined to the box score. Sophomore guard Bryan Mullins said Falker's low-post presence also benefits the guards defending on the perimeter.

"He's a great defender and he always has our back," Mullins said. "So when we're pressuring the ball, in case someone does get by us, we know he's back there and he's going to either block the shot or make it a tough one by jumping and adjusting the other person's shot."

Lowery said Falker is the anchor of the Salukis' defense and his presence near the basket makes the opponents think twice about driving the lane, but that doesn't mean SIU's other players can take it easy defensively.

"Him blocking more shots makes it better, but it doesn't

change anything we do defensively," Lowery said. "We don't practice thinking he's going to block every shot."

Falker has blocked four shots in each of his last two games and accomplished that feat four other times this season, including five blocks Dec. 23 in a 66-61 win at Saint Mary's College.

If a player happens to get into the lane against the Salukis, Falker said blocking the shot attempt is another way for him to help his teammates, something he has been doing since high school.

"If they want to come in here and shoot layups, I'll try to block it," Falker said. "Why not? It's fun."

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SIU career blocks leaders

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Joe C. Meriweather (1973-75) — 164 | 6. Gary Wilson (1975-79) — 99 |
| 2. Ashraf Amaya (1989-93) — 158 | 7. Rolan Roberts (2001-02) — 87 |
| 3. Marcus Timmons (1991-95) — 123 | 8. Darren Brooks (2000-05) — 77 |
| 4. Randal Falker (2003-Present) — 120 | 9. Kenny Perry (1983-85) — 77 |
| 5. Rod Camp (1980-82) — 107 | 10. Marcelo Da Silva (1990-94) — 72 |



DuVale Riley ~ DAILY EGYPTIAN

Michael Finigan, a Saluki infielder, receives a throw at second base during baseball practice Tuesday afternoon at the Abe Martin Field.

BASEBALL

Cold-blooded: Saluki baseball opens outdoor practices

D.W. Norris
DAILY EGYPTIAN

A simple sign printed on white paper was taped to the doors of the "Itch" Jones Clubhouse.

It served as a daily reminder to the Saluki baseball team encapsulated in a six-word question: "16 days left. Are you ready?"

As a blustery January wind sliced through the barren trees surrounding the Abe Martin Field, the team worked on answering that question in its first week of practices. The weather may have been more suitable for football but the Salukis do not care about the winter chill.

A Feb. 9 date with Stetson University approaches like a Jordan Powell fastball and if they blink, it will

be on them before they know it.

Practicing indoors, while comfortable, could not simulate game conditions.

Hitters needed to face live pitching. Pitchers needed to get comfortable with the defense behind them. Fielders had to get used to the demands of corralling balls on dirt and grass.

The team could not accomplish those goals under the roof of Carbondale's Sports Blast, though associate head coach Ken Henderson said he appreciated the option.

"We have facilities where we can throw inside live but it's still not the same," Henderson said. "When you hit inside, with the lighting and the backdrop, it's just completely different. And obviously, in terms of game

defense, you can't do any of that."

And with 16 days remaining until their first game, the Salukis did not want to take any chances.

How the team plays on the Florida road trip can set the course of a season. Come in at less than game speed and the results can be disastrous.

Senior center fielder Kevin Koski has seen the difference field time makes and knows first-hand what can happen when the competition has a jump on the Salukis.

"I can't even begin to explain the importance of getting outside," Koski said. "My freshman year, we didn't get outside once and we went to Florida Atlantic and just got absolutely destroyed."

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